

SENATE RESOLUTION 166

By Beavers

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Corporal Charlie Neal Allen on the sixty-fifth anniversary of his wounding in France during World War II.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, during World War II, thousands of Tennesseans continued the time-honored tradition of volunteerism through service in the United States Armed Forces, and many of these heroes continue to serve as shining examples of selflessness and courage today; and

WHEREAS, Charlie Neal Allen is one such estimable veteran; on June 21, 2009, sixty-five years will have passed since Mr. Allen, then a Corporal in the United States Army, suffered a serious injury to his leg while on patrol in Europe shortly after the D-Day invasion; and

WHEREAS, Charlie Allen was born in Smith County on April 25, 1914, to Levi Allen and Alma Harel; at the tender age of six months, he suffered a terrible loss when his mother passed away; and

WHEREAS, in the 1920s, Mr. Allen's family moved to Watertown, where he attended Poplar Hill School through the eighth grade; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Allen enlisted in the U.S. Army in the early 1940s before the country even entered World War II; as a rifleman in the 117th Infantry Regiment, 30th Infantry Division, Private First Class Allen landed on Normandy Beach three days after D-Day, June 6, 1944; and

WHEREAS, in the early morning hours of June 21, 1944, Corporal Allen was on patrol in an apple orchard outside St. Lo, France, when he and his fellow soldiers were attacked;

Corporal Allen's best friend, Guy Henderson, a man from Gallatin whom he had met in the service, was killed, while Corporal Allen received that terrible injury to his leg; and

WHEREAS, when medics found Corporal Allen late that afternoon, the young Tennessean had managed to survive by applying a tourniquet to his own leg; his condition was so precarious that he was returned to the United States for medical care; and

WHEREAS, for nearly two years, Corporal Charlie Allen received treatment in hospitals in Georgia, California, and North Carolina; he was deemed one-hundred-percent disabled, permanently on crutches for mobility; and

WHEREAS, in 1946, Corporal Allen was discharged, whereupon he returned to the Wilson County town he had called home since childhood; in 1947, he married Nellie Harden, also of Watertown; and

WHEREAS, a dedicated public servant to the people of his hometown, Charlie Allen became involved in Watertown city government; in the late 1950s, he was Vice-Mayor, and he served as an Alderman in the 1950s and 1960s; and

WHEREAS, in the 1970s, the Allens left Watertown for Murfreesboro, where Mrs. Allen worked as a nurse at the Alvin C. York Campus of the Veterans Administration Tennessee Valley Healthcare System for ten years before retiring; she passed away in December 2004; and

WHEREAS, the couple's children and their spouses, Don Allen and Linda and Don Buhler, live in Murfreesboro, as does the Allens' grandchild, Laura Buhler; and

WHEREAS, Corporal Allen continues to live in Murfreesboro as a resident of the VA nursing home there; and

WHEREAS, Corporal Charlie Allen has demonstrated integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly should pause to remember the singular patriotism, courage, and commitment to duty Corporal Allen consistently displayed as a soldier, especially that fateful day in France when he nearly died in service to his country; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and commend Corporal Charlie Neal Allen on the sixty-fifth anniversary of his wounding in France during World War II, express our most heartfelt thanks for the sacrifice he made that day in 1944, and extend to him our best wishes for the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.